

BREASTFEEDING

Definition: Women who had ever breastfed or pumped breast milk to feed their baby after delivery.

Significance: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends breastfeeding as the ideal feeding choice for infants to achieve optimal health, growth, and development.

Healthy People 2010 Objective: Breastfeeding rates of 75% at birth; 50% at six months; and 25% at one year.



PRAMS

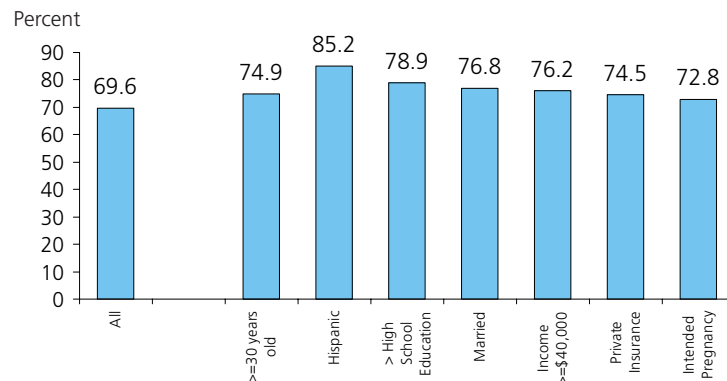
Summary

- Overall, 69.6% of women had breastfed their babies and 36.8% were currently breastfeeding at the time of the survey (when their babies were an average of three months old).

Maternal Characteristics

- Breastfeeding rates vary by maternal characteristics; women of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity had higher breastfeeding rates than non-Hispanic/Latino women (85.2% vs 66%).

Breastfeeding Initiation by Selected Maternal Characteristics
Rhode Island, 2002-2003



- Higher breastfeeding rates were seen among women with more than a high school education (78.9%); married women (76.8%); women with household incomes greater than \$40,000 (76.2%); women with private health insurance (74.5%); and women whose pregnancy was intended (72.8%).

Reasons For Not Breastfeeding

- Reasons why women did not ever breastfeed included the following: they did not like breastfeeding (45.4%); they had to take care of other children (29.1%); they went back to work or school (16.9%); they wanted their body back to themselves (13.5%).

